

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Dana C. Bookbinder, et al.

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Title: METHODS FOR PROTECTING SILICA-
CONTAINING ARTICLE AND
INHIBITING BREAKS DURING
DRAWING OF OPTICAL FIBER, AND
SILICA-CONTAINING ARTICLE
PROTECTED AGAINST BREAK-
INDUCING PARTICULATES

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
ACCOMPANYING
CONTINUATION APPLICATION**

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING
CONTINUATION APPLICATION**

Sir:

This is a Preliminary Amendment accompanying a **Continuation** of U.S. Application No. 09/447,077 filed November 22, 1999. Applicant requests that prior to the calculation of any fees the following amendments be entered, without prejudice, in the case.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.